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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/707,695	WATANABE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Uyen-Chau N. Le	2876	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 30 June 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-6 and 8.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 August 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Prelim. Amdt/Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed 30 June 2005.

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 24 August 2004. These drawings are accepted by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Koyanagi et al discloses a barcode reading system comprises, among other things, a demodulating unit (e.g., controller 25) that, if the number of modules judged is different from a predetermined number, demodulates the character by using both demodulation-pattern tables 100 and 200 according to the number of modules judged (col. 11, lines 14+; col. 12, lines 27+). Koyanagi et al is silent with respect to using a single demodulation-pattern table, which is selected from a plurality of demodulation-pattern tables according to the number of modules judged.

Nishino teaches a dot code pattern reading system comprises, among other things, a demodulation unit demodulates the character by using a single modulation table, which is selected out of a number of tables at the time of the modulating operation

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according to the control data for permitting or prohibiting copying (col. 11, lines 6- 15).

Nishino is silent with respect to a single demodulation- pattern table is selected from a plurality of demodulation-pattern tables according to the number of modules judged.

Kawamura (JP 2002133363 A) discloses a bar code demodulation system comprises a data table generating means 1 for converting the dot pattern of a bar code into a data table where the pattern is expressed by dot numbers corresponding to each bar width in order of arrangement, and a demodulating means 2 for demodulating the bar code according to the data table. Kawamura is silent with respect to a single demodulation- pattern table is selected from a plurality of demodulation-pattern tables according to the number of modules judged.

Kawai et al discloses a bar-code reader 2 comprising a judging unit that judges number of modules corresponding to a character from character data read from a bar-code 1, and a demodulating unit that, if the number of modules judged is different from a predetermined number, demodulates the character by using a demodulation-pattern table corresponding to the number of modules judged (col. 6, line 53 through col. 11, line 30). Kawai et al is silent with respect to a consecutive judging unit that judges whether the number of modules judged is judged to be different from the predetermined number consecutively for a plurality of times, wherein the demodulating unit, if the consecutive judging unit judges that the number of modules judged is judged to be different from the predetermined number consecutively for a plurality of times, does not demodulate the character

Watanabe et al discloses a bar-code reader 2A comprising: a judging unit 14 that judges number of modules corresponding to a character from character data read from a bar-code 1, and a demodulating unit 12 that, if the number of modules judged is different from a predetermined number, extracts and demodulates the character by using a single demodulation pattern table corresponding to the number of modules judged (fig. 1; col. 9, lines 10+ and col. 10, lines 20+). Watanabe et al is silent with respect to a single demodulation-pattern table is selected from a plurality of demodulation-pattern tables according to the number of modules judged.

The prior art of records to Koyanagi et al, Nishino, Kawamura, Kawai et al, Watanabe et al and all other cited references, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or fairly suggest the specific structure or the method a barcode reader comprising, among other things, a demodulating unit that, if the number of modules judged is different from a predetermined number, demodulates the character by using a single demodulation-pattern table which is selected from a plurality of demodulation-pattern tables according to the number of modules judged; a consecutive judging unit that judges whether the number of modules judged is judged to be different from the predetermined number consecutively for a plurality of times, wherein the demodulating unit, if the consecutive judging unit judges that the number of modules judged is judged to be different from the predetermined number consecutively for a plurality of times, does not demodulate the character as set forth in the claimed combinations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uyen-Chau N. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2397. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri. 5:30AM-2:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Uyen-Chau N. Le
Examiner
Art Unit 2876

July 22, 2005